



Blount County Government

359 Court Street
Maryville, TN 37804-5906

Meeting Minutes

Education Committee

Commissioner Dawn Reagan, Chairperson

Commissioner Nick Bright, Vice Chair

Commissioner Mike Akard

Commissioner Robbie Bennett

Commissioner Brad Bowers

Commissioner Misty Davis

Commissioner Jessica Hannah

Commissioner Earl McMahan

Commissioner Steve Mikels

School Board Members (ex officio, non-voting):

Fred Goins and Erica Moore

Tuesday, January 31, 2023

12:30 PM

Union Grove Middle School
334 S. Old Grey Ridge Rd., Friendsville 37737

ROLL CALL

BE IT REMEMBERED, that the Blount County Education Committee met at Union Grove Middle School in Maryville, Tennessee, on Tuesday, January 31, 2023, at 12:30 p.m. Blount County Education Committee Chairperson Dawn Reagan called the meeting to order. There were 9 members present, with the late arrival of Commissioner Jessica Hannah, and 2 absent. The Chair declared that a quorum did exist. In addition to the Education Committee members, others present were: Director of Schools David Murrell; Assistant Director Jake Jones; Chief Financial Officer Troy Logan and Kristi Yates; and Supervisor of Facilities, Maintenance and Capital Projects James Duke. The following proceedings were held, to wit:

- Present** 9 - Commissioner Mike Akard, Commissioner Brad Bowers, Commissioner Nick Bright, Commissioner Misty Davis, Commissioner Jessica Hannah, Commissioner Earl McMahan, Commissioner Dawn Reagan, School Representative Fred Goins, and School Representative Erica Moore
- Absent** 2 - Commissioner Robbie Bennett, and Commissioner Steve Mikels

A. SETTING OF AGENDA.

A motion was made by Commissioner Akard, seconded by Commissioner Bright, that the agenda be set. A voice vote was taken with all voting aye, and none opposed. The Chair declared the motion to have passed.

B. APPROVAL OF MINUTES.

1. [Education Committee Meeting Minutes for November 29, 2022.](#)

Attachments: [1705_M_Education_Committee_22-11-29_Meeting_Minutes](#)

A motion was made by Commissioner Akard, seconded by Commissioner McMahan, that the minutes be approved. A voice vote was taken with all voting aye, and none opposed. The Chair declared the motion to have passed.

C. PUBLIC INPUT ON ITEMS ON THE AGENDA.

There was none.

D. REPORTS.**1. Maintenance/Construction Report.**

Blount County Schools Supervisor of Facilities, Maintenance and Capital Projects James Duke gave the maintenance/construction report that included:

COMPLETED PROJECTS -- Replaced Novar HVAC control system at Eagleton Middle.

ONGOING PROJECTS -- HVAC replacement at Lanier Elementary; soccer field lights at Heritage High (HHS); HVAC projects at HHS and William Blount (WB) Ninth Grade Academy; roof repair at Heritage Middle (HMS) and various other schools; cooler tower replacement at Townsend Elementary; wheelchair lift at Walland Elementary; Eagleton College and Career Academy (ECCA) CTE, field house and press box; HHS CTE renovation; ECCA Science lab renovation; HHS security vestibule; and roof replace at Fairview Elementary.

FUTURE PROJECTS -- synthetic turf at both high school football fields; SESI HVAC replacement; HMS baseball practice field; WB softball concession building sewage; and WBHS CTE renovation.

Schools Maintenance closed 229 work orders that included: installed water bottle filler station and repaired a gas leak at Central Office; replaced two 400 amps at Porter Elementary; compressor HVAC at Carpenter Elementary; chemical feeder in the chill line at WB; and ECCA soccer field.

2. Financial Report.

Blount County Schools Chief Financial Officer Troy Logan introduced Kristi Yates as Blount County Schools new Chief Financial Officer in training; she will replace Mr. Logan when he retires. Mr. Logan reported that the US Department of Labor audited the Friends Program payroll and timekeeping records for the past two years; there were 3 findings reported that have since been corrected. Mr. Logan introduced two budget increase requests for schools capital projects: 1) Appropriation of funds for HHS CTE classroom renovation \$105,000.00 fund 141 to procure office and classroom furniture; and 2) Appropriation of funds for ECCA capital classroom and athletic facility projects \$1,002,000.00 (CTE building, field house, press box and football/soccer/track fields). Mr. Logan's report concluded with the budget plan and estimated revenues for FY2023-24.

There was no action taken.

E. UNFINISHED BUSINESS.

There was none.

F. NEW BUSINESS.**1. Report from Union Grove Middle School Principal.**

Union Grove Middle School Principal John Webb welcomed all those present. He recognized Mr. David Talley and Ms. Anissa Hudson, two UGMS eighth grade Social Studies teachers who finished eighth place in the state in 2021. He also noted that UGMS placed 20th out of nearly 550 schools in 2022.

There was no action taken.

2. Report from the Director of Schools.

Director of Schools David Murrell commended Principal John Webb and staff on UGMS success. Mr. Murrell spoke of Kristi Yates background and her future in the Blount County School system as Chief Financial Officer. He spoke of the budget planning process, student iReady benchmark, and TCAPs. He invited committee members to attend the Board of Education budget work session on March 2, 2023, and thanked committee members for their continued support. He also introduced the new Senior Executive Assistant, Ms. Dani McPherson.

There was no action taken.

3. Blount County School Board.

The Chair wished the Blount County School Board members a belated happy School Board Appreciation Week (January 22-28, 2023).

There was no action taken.

4. Other.

As an educator, the Chair addressed the public comment from last month's meeting, stating that in 2022, 37% of 3rd - 5th grade students were deemed to have "met or exceeded expectations", while 34% of 6th - 8th grade students were deemed to have "met or exceeded expectations"; and 40.4% 3rd - 5th grade students were deemed as "approaching grade level", with 44.6% 6th - 8th grade students deemed as "approaching grade level". She spoke of ongoing tutoring and intervention programs offered to Blount County students.

There was no action taken.

5. Next Meeting - Tuesday, February 28, 2023(*) - location to be announced.

(*Commissioners will be attending County Government Day in Nashville.)

The Education Committee decided to reschedule their next meeting to Thursday, February 23, 2023, at 12:30 p.m. to be held at Eagleton Elementary School.

G. PUBLIC INPUT ON ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA.

There was none.

H. ADJOURNMENT.

A motion was made that the meeting be adjourned. The Education Committee meeting adjourned on Tuesday, January 31, 2023, at 1:21 p.m.